

THE CONFEDERATE.

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A. M. GORMAN, & Co.

All letters on business of the Office, to be directed to A. M. GORMAN, & Co.

WEDNESDAY, February 3, 1864.

Office of THE CONFEDERATE, on Fayetteville street, second door South of Pomeroy's Bookstore.

From Below.

The city has been cecified with reports for a day or two, of important movements among our troops in the Eastern counties; and the rumor has extensively prevailed of great deeds accomplished. We have been in possession of important information for a day or two, but thought it prudent to withhold all we knew. But as we learn from our very reliable Correspondent below, that the expedition is no longer a secret, we may be at liberty to give to the public some of the information he has communicated to us.

He informs us that every thing is working well—that our forces were moving towards the coast both on the north and south sides of the Neuse. He says six brigades (giving us the names, which we withhold,) with two battalions of artillery and two regiments of cavalry, were moving from the south side of the river, under the immediate supervision of Major General Pickett, (who is in full command of the entire expedition,) while a portion of other forces were marching in a certain direction, so as to cut off the enemy's retreat. And at the same time another column was moving in another important direction, given. The place to be attacked was to be assailed at three points simultaneously, aided by a marine corps; and the assault was supposed to have taken place on Sunday night last.

We received this information from our correspondent on Monday, who promised to write us again on yesterday. We have not received his letter, and fear it has not been delivered by the person to whom it was entrusted, as it was forwarded (if sent) by private hand. We hope to receive something by telegraph from him before going to press. If so, it will be found under our Telegraphic head. In the meantime we say to our readers—be of good cheer—inspiring news will be received from that quarter before many hours.

THE NORTH CAROLINA FRONTIER.—The Richmond Examiner has learned from a most reliable source, that a detachment from a Massachusetts negro regiment, under the command of a certain colored man, was sent to Currituck county, North Carolina, to attack, and capture if possible, some of our guerrillas of Lieutenant White's command. Failing in this, they visited a second time the house of Lieut. White, and, after abusing the family, took his daughter, an accomplished young lady of seventeen years. After having her hands tied in front of her and the rope thrown over her shoulders, she was driven, by a big negro, with curses and abuse, in front of the command, towards Norfolk. When within five miles of Norfolk they met a regiment of New York white infantry, who, with its colonel at the head, knocked over the negro driver and rescued Miss White from the negro guard, and sent her to Norfolk in a carriage.

FROM THE BLACKWATER.—The Richmond Examiner learns from Col. Griffin's lines, that a Yankee gunboat, with troops aboard, approached Windsor, North Carolina coming up Kesia river, which unites with the Roanoke river, near its mouth. When within five miles of Windsor, the boat was attacked by thirty cavalry, belonging to Company B, Sixty-second Georgia regiment, who, after killing three and wounding seven of the enemy, succeeded in driving the boat back down the river. We lost one man and horse. —*Examiner.*

SKIRMISH ON THE CHOWAN.—The Petersburg Express of yesterday, had learned of passengers from Weldon the day before, that it was reported that the Yankees were advancing in that direction. On Saturday, Colonel Griffin's Cavalry had a skirmish with the advance forces at some place in the vicinity of Winton or Colerain, and were compelled to fall back before superior numbers. No further particulars could be learned.

If Butler has determined to advance on Weldon, we feel sure, that like Colonel Spears, he will be apt to meet a Colonel Ransom on the road, ere he gets to the end of his journey.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—The last Fayetteville Observer contains the first decision that we have heard of under the new law of Congress concerning the principals, who had hired substitutes, made by Judge French, at Lumberton, on Friday last, in a case of habeas corpus from Moore county. It affirms the constitutionality of the law and remands the applicant to the custody of the Enrolling Officer. It appears to be sustained by the analogous decisions of the highest Courts of this State and of the United States.

We shall publish Judge French's opinion and decision to-morrow.

The Standard has at length learned that "a meeting was held and resolutions adopted," at Rogers' Store, in this county, ten days or a fortnight ago; but says—"We have not yet received the proceedings." Will it publish them when it does receive them? Will it make any efforts to procure the "resolutions" adopted? It makes no promises as to either.

Our weekly edition run short this week, and we have to supply a few subscribers with this number of the Daily.

What Does It Mean?

[CONTINUED.]

Our second proposition was, to prove that others understood the intention of the Standard to be secession, by a State Convention, from the Confederacy. Dr. Leach is somewhat of a novice in his association with the Standard. He has not yet learned the art of holding the bag, so as not to let the cat out. Certainly he understands the Standard to be in conformity with his views, for he selects that as the organ of their publication; and his communications are familiarly addressed to the Standard, signed with the initials of the writer, with the assurance that they will be published, accompanied by those sweet morsels of homely flattery, so soft, so blandishing, so easy to a politician of the Standard's consummate skill, and yet so grateful to ignorance and vanity. Certainly Dr. Leach knew his friend and sympathizer, when he selected the Standard.

Certainly the two meetings, in Greene and Granville, so under-toed him, for by each was he selected as the organ of publication—each having resolved him to be the friend and champion of the cause—and one of them being willing to "have its right hand forget its cunning," (which would be a great blessing to Greene county,) and "its tongue cleave to the roof of its mouth," (which would be no loss to anybody,) if it ever forgets the Standard.

The member elect from the Seventh district who rejoices in the name of *Christian*—not the first misnomer by many in this world of queer names—is known very lately and very openly to advocate the secession of the State, and the Editor of the Standard is his favorite for Governor. He knows, or thinks he knows, the sentiments of the Standard. An official of high station not far from the Capital, in a late conversation with a gentleman of this city, announced that the object was to call a Convention to carry the State out of the Confederacy—that he favored it, and on being asked what were Gov. Vance's views, he replied he did not care for the Governor, or his views. This conversation was not private, and we are authorized to give the names of the parties.—This official we know to be a confidential political friend of the Standard—and we know them to be mutual supporters.

Just as the disloyal peace meetings, which advocated the "Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was"—meaning the United States Constitution and Union—found a publisher in the Standard, so every disloyal meeting now to be held to agitate a Convention for secession, will seek the same outlet to the public. And we hazard the assertion, that there is not a traitor in North Carolina, who hates the Confederacy and pines for re-association with our enemies, if he takes any paper, takes the Standard, and looks to it for the support and encouragement of the end he desires. While here in North Carolina—in the press, and in the loyal press of other States—here among the loyal citizens—and in every Confederate State—whether you meet them at home, in the Rail Road cars, in the public cities—whether they be civilians, or officers, or soldiers of the army, you hear a distrust of our State—aspersions upon her fidelity—and all based upon the publications of the Standard.

Can it be that there is this universal misconception of language and the meaning of words? or has all the world arrayed itself against this poor one man to oppress and misrepresent him? If this be so, the Standard carries the remedy on the end of its quill. Let it not merely denounce these disloyal objects, but let it separate from those who advocate them. Let it refuse publication to obnoxious sentiments and denounce the authors. One-half of the vituperation lavished by it on our Government, and President, if bestowed on the enemy and their Yankee sympathizers, would make it fewer friends in this category—and tend to redeem it from suspicion.

But our Yankee enemies, in their own lines, understand the Standard to favor the secession of this State and a reconstruction; and though they receive the Standard's disavowal, they receive them as the necessary egressions the Standard is obliged to make to its locality and surroundings; but this does not at all lessen their sympathy for it, or their confidence in it.

Witness the meeting of all colors in Washington, N. C., last summer, where confidence and sympathy are expressed towards the "great Conservative party" of this State—where friends are recognized who live near the centre of the State, and in which resolutions are passed, asking the Federal Government for reinforcements, that their friends may be reached. Witness Mr. Everett's oration at Gettysburg:

"The heart of the people, North and South, is for the Union. Indications, too plain to be mistaken, announce the fact, both in the East and the West of the States in rebellion. In North Carolina and Arkansas the fatal charr at length is broken. At Raleigh and Little Rock, the lips of honest and brave men are unsealed, and an independent press is unfettered. The weary masses of the people are yearning to see the dear old flag floating again upon the capitol, and they sigh for the return of peace, prosperity and happiness which they enjoyed under a Government whose power was felt only in its blessings."

The independent press of North Carolina alluded to by Mr. Everett, is the STANDARD. It is located by him at Raleigh. The indication is spoken of by Mr. Everett as "too plain to be mistaken," are the Standard's denunciations of our Government and its call for separate State action. This is the independence that Mr. Everett yearns towards—this is the unbarring of the artillery, from whose muzzle the fatal shot is to be hurled to batter down the Confederate flag—that some Conservative mass, weary of the battle for independence, may raise and float the "federal gridiron"—the disonored sheet of a corrupt Government and corrupt people. This is the Standard claimed by this arch enemy of ours—claimed

under imposing circumstances—claimed before assembled numbers of our bitterest foes—over the graves of our dead heroes and in hearing of our prison-bound defenders.

And the Standard has been appealed to, to dispute this claim. God wot, it seems to us that the first impulse of a loyal mind, would have been to repel this audacious insolence with fitting indignation; yet the Standard is deaf to the appeal—has remained silent—and permits this title to it to remain undisputed.

Later—to-day, almost—see the following: FROM NORTH CAROLINA—A CONVENTION CALLED TO SECEDE FROM THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

Boston, Jan. 22.—A correspondent of the Traveller, in writing from Newbern, N. C., states that information had reached there that a card had been issued at Raleigh for a State Convention for the purpose of seceding from their allegiance to the Southern Confederacy. The writer says: "Governor Vance and nearly every leading man in North Carolina desire to return to the Union." He also says: "An army of one thousand men under Gen. Butler could march to Raleigh, take possession of the capital and free the State from the rule of the traitors in one month's time. Such an army would receive an enthusiastic welcome there and all along the line of march. So say men who know."

What inspires these hopes in our enemies? The action of these meetings, and their publication in the Standard. And the reason why Gov. Vance is thus misrepresented, is because these meetings tie him to them by their laudatory resolutions.

It is idle for the Standard to say that the misrepresentations of its enemies produce this misunderstanding. Our dash of its pen—one column, accompanied by demeanor, conduct and association, would raise it out of these affiliations and set it right, before the country and the world. If it fails to try this remedy, it is powerfully invoked by the presence of the malady—it cannot complain if public sentiment shall consign it to the hospital of inflections and pestiferous disease.

If the Standard would be assured of the effect of its publications in foreign lands, we tell it for its benefit, that our own State agents, the Confederate Agents, and private enterprise, have all been hindered in Europe, in their efforts to benefit the Confederate States, by a settled opinion of disloyalty in North Carolina, approaching day by day towards the secession of the State, and its reunion with the Federal Government—and this opinion derived from Editorials and Communications epistol from the Standard into Yankee journals, and thence into the abolition sheets of London. For the truth of this, the Standard may refer to almost any citizen who within the past year has spent much time abroad.

We shall take up our third proposition to-morrow.

Congress and the Press.

The Richmond Dispatch says truly, that the Confederate Congress, unless it is their intention to stop the daily press of the Confederacy, should amend that portion of the act which has passed the Senate exempting only the printers and one editor of a daily press.—We do not suppose that the action of the Senate was designed to paralyze the great organ of the popular mind and heart, and to strike dumb the speaking trumpet which has summoned this nation to the battle.—We are inclined to the belief that their action arose from ignorance of the details of a daily office, and from supposing that a daily newspaper, can be got out like a weekly newspaper, where the editor is often his own bookkeeper, reporter, writer, pressman and packer. Now, a daily paper requires, in addition to the editor proper, reporters in both branches of Congress and of the Legislature, and the Courts and markets; and after it is written and printed, it requires the services of several clerks, writing all night long, to enclose and direct the paper to its multitude of subscribers through the mails. These are as necessary to the paper as printers, and such persons have always been found necessary in daily papers since daily papers were in existence. Taking the number so employed in Richmond, which a contemporary states at twenty-four, we do not suppose that the military law would add one hundred men to the army. Is it worth while, for such an addition, to strike down what all free nations have considered the "Palladium of Liberty?"

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS.—Mr. Roode, our new Senator in Congress, offered the following on Saturday last, which was unanimously adopted: The Congress of the Confederate State having learned through the public press of the re-enlistment for the war, of the North Carolina brigade in the army of Northern Virginia, serving under General Robert D. Johnston, therefore,

"Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, That the patriotism and spirit of the North Carolina troops evinced by this prompt and voluntary devotion of themselves afresh to the service of the country, are beyond all praise and deserve the unbounded gratitude of the Government."

And Mr. Smith, of N. C., has introduced in the House, a bill to increase the pay of non-commissioned officers and privates in the army one hundred per cent; and a resolution, instructing the Committee on the Medical Department to inquire into the expediency of increasing the rations of sick and wounded soldiers in Hospital.

We are glad to see these movements. We are in favor of all measures that will add to the comfort and relieve the wants of our noble soldiers.

"Hermes," the Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Mercury, says it is reported that Gen. Elzey is to take the field and Gen. Winder to take Elzey's place as commander of the department, and Kemper to succeed Winder.

The Greensboro' "Peace Meeting."

We are indebted to a friend of this city, for the following extract of a letter giving the particulars of the "Peace Meeting" recently held in Greensboro'.

GREENSBORO', Feb. 1, 1864.

The announcement of a "Peace Meeting" to be held in our town, filled our loyal people with the gloomiest forebodings; but now as it is over, we breathe more freely. The meeting was a disgrace to our patriotic little town—but it broke up in a row—and a laughable affair it was. Crowds of people came from the country "to see what would be done," as they said. The three leaders, R. P. D., D. F. C. and J. L., tried to get up a meeting. The Court House bell several times sent out its inviting peals, and finally, at 12 o'clock, the meeting began by one of the leaders trying to speak. But the crowd cheered, hissed, screamed and applauded in such a manner that every effort to be heard or to organize was utterly in vain. The resolutions could not be read. The crowd used all kinds of abusive and ridiculous epithets, rendering the appearance of the speaker supremely ludicrous. Even rotten eggs were in demand, and the traitors gave up in despair, and sneaked out of the Court House, at 1 o'clock—the meeting having lasted only half an hour. Late in the day, one of the leaders was accosted on the street by a soldier, who asked, "if he were one of the Union men?"—and upon his replying in the affirmative, gave him a good thrashing, and if left alone, might have knocked all his treason out of him—but several persons interfered and he was carried off by a negro man covered with blood.

Regret is experienced by many that the others did not get a thrashing too, but they were smart enough to keep out of the way. The whole town seems to feel indignant at their conduct, and would like to see them suffer for their attempts to get up a "traitor's meeting." A fourth leader had the sagacity to leave town early on Saturday morning, so doubt having some important business elsewhere which demanded his attention;—and his short experience in military matters during the first year of the war, having taught him, that "discretion is the better part of valor," and that "he who runs away, may live to fight another day."

We join the Lynchburg Republican in the following protest against abuses practiced by the Telegraphic Press Association upon the publishers of Newspapers. Beside the nuisances complained of by the Republican, we may mention the ridiculous verbosity of some of the despatches—words, words, words being strung together, seemingly for no other reason than to make the despatches longer.—See the Richmond telegram in this paper, relative to the verdict of the Jury, in the trial of Forde for murder.

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.—We hope our brethren of the press will unite with us in a solemn protest to Mr. Thurston, against the present management of the "Press Association." As now conducted, it is a monstrous outrage upon the press, and unless corrected is obliged to result in the financial ruin of nearly all the papers in the Confederacy. Its original design was a good one. It was to furnish the daily press with the latest and most important news from different points of the compass, and at such rates as the press could afford to pay. But does it fulfill this purpose? It has become the vehicle of all the trash which idle newspaper mongers can pick up from one end of the Confederacy to the other. It sends to the press at an enormous expense a vast quantity of matter which a newspaper would not clip from an exchange. For instance, it is telegraphed from Orange Court House that Mosby captured two men, and three horses on a certain occasion. Well, who cares if he did? Another sends us the important news that the weather is "cool and clear" or "cloudy and windy." Well, what of it? Another sends forth the message that ten Yankee prisoners, captured at such a place, have just arrived. Well, who cares? A Congressional reporter sends his speculations all over the country every day, about the proceedings of Congress. They are very good, but editors have to pay for them, and they don't want to do it. All of these things and a thousand others are the gross abuses of the Press Association.—Its agents send us numerous things that are no news—that are of no sort of interest or importance—that we would not clip from an exchange, much less pay for at telegraphic rates.

We could say much more upon this subject, but it is needless for us to do so, as the measures of which we speak are known and felt by the whole press. We do not think we go too far when we say the Press Association has improperly grown into a monstrous abuse—an outrage upon the press and the people—and that it ought to be broken up, or made to conform to what is right and proper, and just to the press.

The Daily Mississippian of the 23d, says "We have a letter from our intelligent correspondent, 'Logan,' who is now at Jackson, which informs us that the Yankees have prepared the framework of the bridge intended for Big Black, and that they avow their intention to come out to Jackson and occupy the place permanently. Our dispatches from Meridian bring the same intelligence. Though this may be the intention of the Yankees, it does not necessarily follow that they will do exactly what they intend. We are glad to learn that they will have to fight for Jackson."

YANKEE GUNBOAT DESTROYED.—It will be recollected that the Wilmington papers a few weeks ago stated that a violent explosion had been heard below that city, and that it was supposed to have been caused by the blowing up of a Yankee gunboat. This supposition is confirmed by late news from the North, by which we learn that the vessel destroyed was the Iron Age, which had got aground and was blown up by her crew to prevent her falling into our hands.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.—Information has been received by the Jonesborough (Tenn.) Telegraph, that one division of our army, the cavalry, had moved forward in the direction of Knoxville. The news was revived as current at Russellville. The report, however, gained little credence.

The troops were receiving clothing and shoes—which they stood much in need of—and were in fine spirits, and hopeful as to the future. —*Rich. Whig.*

A deserter was shot near Henderson, Canville county, last week.

TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1863, by J. S. TAYLOR, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

Confederate States—Congress.

Richmond, Feb. 1.

The House was in open session all day. The Senate was in open session but a few minutes, during which the House bill to establish a veterans soldiers home, passed. It now awaits the President's approval.

The House passed two bills—one to allow commissioned officers to draw rations of the same quantity and quality as privates, and purchase clothing from the government, at cost. Another to supply free negroes and slaves in the army. It provides that all male free negroes between eighteen and fifty be held liable to perform duty in the army in the way of work on fortifications, government works, hospitals, &c., and receive rations, clothing, and eleven dollars a month.

The Secretary was authorized to employ twenty thousand slaves, if necessary, furnish rations, clothing and pay owners eleven dollars per month, and pay the loss of slaves while so employed; and may impress, if unable to procure them otherwise—making impressions of not more than one in every five male slaves between eighteen and forty-five to be taken from any one owner. Free negroes are first to be conscripted, then slaves impressed to make up any deficiency. These free negroes under treaty with Paris of 1803, and with Spain of 1819, are not liable under this act.

Richmond, Feb. 2.

The House went into secret session in a few minutes after assembling, and remained so all day. Nothing of importance was transacted in open session in the Senate.

From Tennessee.

Morristown, Feb. 1.

Our cavalry occupy Sorbisville, the enemy having retired to Marysville. Our loss in the engagement of the 27th was not as great as at first reported, being only one hundred and twenty five.

The weather continues very pleasant.

Morristown, Feb. 2.

A perfect dearth of news here.—Situation unchanged.

From Richmond.

Richmond, Feb. 1.

This evening the Jury brought in their verdict in the case of Forde, which has been progressing over ten days, on trial charged with the murder of Dixon, former Clerk of the House of Representatives—Guilty of murder in the second degree.—Punishment fixed at eighteen years imprisonment in the Penitentiary—the utmost extent of the law in this State for the offense of which he was found guilty. His counsel took steps to carry the case to the Court of Appeals.

From Gen. Lee's Army.

Orange, C. H., Feb. 1.

The enemy's cavalry, guided by a man named Robinson, pushed across Robinson river early Sunday morning, capturing some of our pickets. After visiting Madison C. H. and capturing the contents of a mail at that place, they recrossed to Culpeper county. The enemy has been scouting during the past week and changing camps. Maj. Gen. Breckenridge arrived here to-day. He is the guest of Gen. Lee.

Orange, C. H. Feb. 2.

Reports received here this evening, from several sources, state that Gen. Early has captured a force of Yankees at Petersburg, Hardy county, Va., estimated at eight hundred.

Seige of Charleston.

Charleston, Feb. 2.

The enemy have discontinued firing on Sumter. 136 shots have been fired at the city since last report up to five o'clock this evening.

Steamer *Pristo*, Capt. Horsey, from Nassau, on the 29th, in attempting to run in, about 2 o'clock this morning got ashore off Sullivan's Island and remained immovable. Most of the cargo, which was on Government account, being saved in good condition.

The enemy opened a heavy fire on the steamer at daylight and continued it all day. It is believed the vessel will be a total wreck.

From Eastern Virginia.

Richmond, Feb. 2.

On Sunday last about one hundred and fifty Yankees landed at Smithfield from a gunboat and proceeded about five miles into the interior for the purpose of destroying a cotton factory. They were met by a squad of Confederate cavalry when a skirmish ensued, and the Yankees returned to Smithfield. An official despatch last night says the whole force were captured, and the gunboat destroyed, no one hurt on our side. Four Yankees were killed and two or three wounded. The expedition was sent out by Butler.

BLANKETS AND SHOES FOR OUR TROOPS.—We understand that the Ad-Vance steamer brought on her recent trip 10,000 pairs shoes, 12,000 blankets, and 8,000 pairs of cards. Also that there is plenty of clothes and blankets for our soldiers, and if they are not supplied, it is the fault of their Quartermasters. We trust it will not long be anybody's fault. Clothes and feed them by all manner of means.

It is said that Greene county has held a public meeting at her Court-house, at which resolutions were passed endorsing the general course of Gov. Vance and urging him to convene the Legislature forthwith. Similar meetings have been held in other counties, and others still propose to hold them. There is a commotion throughout this State—a feverish disquiet, and with it a distrust of the Confederate Government which bodes no good, we fear.

The people of North Carolina have had their minds too much engrossed with the idea that the General Government contemplated appropriating them, and robbing them of their liberty and Constitutional rights, to engage in any scheme calculated to encourage and sustain the Government. In no other State of the Confederacy do we witness the spirit of distrust paralyzing the strength of the people, as here. In no other are the people calling for a Convention for the purpose of re-iterating the doctrine of State sovereignty, and declaring they won't be run over by Jefferson Davis or any body else. In no other do they talk of "taking their own affairs into their own hands," or in other words, of rejecting the Confederate Government as their political agent. It is to be hoped the good sense and public virtue of the people will yet rescue the State from the dishonor and shame which the present signs of the times indicate as likely to be fastened upon her. —*Salisbury Watchman.*

From Portsmouth.

A person who was in Portsmouth a week ago, gives us a sad account of the oppression and suffering of the loyal citizens of that city. There were in Portsmouth and its vicinity, about 3,000 soldiers, mostly negroes, commanded by Yankee officers, who seek every opportunity to oppress and annoy the "Scotch," as they call the loyal citizens. Nearly all the citizens, both male and female, have been forced to take the oath of allegiance to the Lincoln Government. The few who have refused to take it are constantly watched by the negroes, disloyal citizens—of whom there are some—and the Yankee detectives, and feel that they are constantly liable to be arrested and shut up in prison. No sort of protection is afforded to their personal property and they are at the mercy of the fiends around them. While our informant was in the city, a negro threw his arms around the neck of a respectable white lady, who was passing the street, and kissed her. She resisted, and at headquarters and was asked if she could identify him. She readily answered in the affirmative. He was brought up and identified by the lady; when the enquiry was made if she had taken the oath of allegiance. A negative answer being given, she was told to leave the house, as she was not entitled to any protection. The person from whom we derive this information, walked the streets of Portsmouth, and says that scarcely a familiar face could be seen, although before the war they were well acquainted in the city. The doors and blinds in the houses occupied by loyal persons are all closed, and a Virginia lady was rarely to be seen in the streets.

General G. B. Jones, whose headquarters have been at Bowers' Hill, and General Barnes, of Norfolk, have both been removed. General Hickman, a full-blooded abolitionist, takes the place of Getty, and G. W. Wilde, of Elizabeth City, N. C., notorious succeeds Barnes.

It is reported that the Yankees, with their negro soldiers, intend making a raid towards the Blackwater soon. Whether there is anything real in this report or not, our informant could not learn. —*Pet. Express.*

FOOD FOR THE ARMY.—All our private information of late has been to the effect that Gen. Lee's noble army had been faring well for provisions. But the following late Order shows that there is a present temporary scarcity:—

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VA., No. 224, 1864.

General Order, No. 7.
The commanding General considers it due to the army to state that the temporary reduction of rations has been caused by circumstances beyond the control of those charged with its support. Its welfare and comfort are the objects of his constant and earnest solicitude; and no effort has been spared to provide for its wants. It is hoped that the exertions now being made will render the necessity but of short duration, but the history of the army has shown that the country can require no sacrifice too great for its patriotic devotion.

Soldiers you tread, with unequal steps, the road by which your fathers marched through suffering, privation and blood to independence!

Continue to emulate in the future, as you have in the past, their valor in arms, their patient endurance of hardships, their high resolve to be free, which no trial could shake, no bribe seduce, no danger appal, and be assured that the just God who crowned their efforts with success, will in his own good time, send down His blessings upon you.

This is an admirable paper! How eloquently does it appeal to the people of all descriptions, to come to the rescue of their defenders from the least suffering for want of food or anything else! There is said to be enough food in the country, if economically used, and the soldiers should have enough of it, even if others have to deny themselves a "part of their accustomed share. Surely all will admit this, and all patriots will do what they can towards furnishing the government, at fair prices, with what they can spare. As the Richmond Sentinel says:—

"Those who stay at home have not the same need for strong food. They have milk and butter, and vegetables in abundance, which the soldiers can but seldom obtain. They have poultry, a dog, and game, and in some localities, fish and oysters. For all these the soldier has little or no chance. As a hard thing, possessed of these advantages, to give our salted meats to the soldiers who are defending our life! It would bring the blush of shame, as it certainly would bring an abiding disgrace, to make the least objection."

OVERTURES FOR PEACE.—In our last we directed the attention of the Raleigh Standard to the following emphatic editorial declaration of that paper on the 10th of August 1861:

"The South cannot make overtures, for she is fighting for existence, and any offer on her part to treat would be considered a sign of weakness and fear. All she asks is to be let alone. She is not let alone as long as the foot of an enemy is on the soil of the Confederate States, and just so long as a single enemy is on her soil, just so long will she fight. This is as little as she can do. If she were to offer less to her enemies, or attempt to do less, she would be unworthy of the spirit and manhood of her people."

It may be objected that it is not right to hold the Standard responsible for anything said in 1861, it being well known that that paper cannot hold to one principle for any considerable length of time. So we ask the Standard's attention to a later declaration. On the 27th March 1863, the Standard emphatically declared:

"But we must not despair of the Republic. Peace is exceedingly desirable, but it must come to us honorably. When and how it will come no one can foresee. The way to negotiation cannot be opened by the South, except upon the implied ground that she is willing to surrender to some extent her independence. In just about two months from the date of this declaration the Standard inaugurated the so-called peace movement,—that is, a movement to surrender the independence of the South! —*Fayetteville Observer.*

New Advertisements.

BLACK PAPER. BEAUTIFUL IVEY PIPES, Just received and for sale at the NEW MARKET STORE, in the building recently occupied by the State Journal Printing Office. Feb. 3, 1864 J. C. FORT & CO.

Wife Wanted.—A young man of good personal appearance, and of good family, desires to correspond with some good looking young lady on the subject of matrimony. No consideration as to her position. Any lady wishing to open such correspondence will address (with postage stamp enclosed) stating her personal appearance, &c., BOX 45, Chapel Hill, N. C. Real name &c. given on application. —2*